Fellowship
PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

AUG. 1, 1961
VOL. 27, NO. 15

THE BERLIN CRISIS AND THE STALEMATE OF MILITARY DIPLOMACY

As we go to press, President Kennedy is reported prepared to mobilize ational Guard and Army reserve units for a possible armed clash over the Ber- n crisis. As Norman Thomas said recently, the situation is ominously reminis- ent of the prewar weeks of 1914 and 1939. With nuclear weapons at the ready n both sides, a hasty move could spell, not the settlement of the Berlin issue, ut the literal death of Europe and perhaps the world.

"Our foreign policy," as Max As- oli pointed out in a recent editorial in *he Reporter*, "is paying the price for he doctrine of massive retaliation"; it as seriously cramped our diplomacy. The .S. approach to Berlin has been to try o freeze the status quo -- not to use the uclear deterrent as a shield for any ositive steps. After preaching liberation o the East German people, the U.S. had othing to say to them when they revolted n 1953, and since that revolt was crushed, he U.S. has been content merely to "hold he line" against Communist moves.

James P. Warburg has noted that the erlin problem is only part of the whole erman problem, which the U.S., taking ts cue from Adenauer, has not con- ronted honestly and realistically. Vest Berlin, he notes, is an "escape atch" through which some 200,000 ast Germans each year -- including any of the most highly trained -- make heir way to freedom. Such a situation s intolerable to the Communists. Mere- y keeping that escape hatch open will ot bring freedom to the people of East Germany.

Nor will the hardening of the east- west boundary and the buildup of op- osed German armed forces on either ide, except through war and the grave isk of nuclear annihilation. This course reserves the trickle of freedom through Berlin at the possible cost, ultimately, of sacrificing the lives of the refugees along with many others.

Hasty counsels such as a mass evacuation of West Berlin, leaving an empty city to the Communists; or ring- ing the city with nonviolent resisters, are fantasies which, even if they were practicable, would leave the basic prob- lems untouched.

What is needed, and desperately at this late hour, is not another retread on the old, outworn Acheson-Dulles policy of subordinating diplomacy to U.S. mili- tary strategy, but a real strategy of peace with tangible, comprehensive and negotiable objectives. There is no so- lution of the Berlin problem without a settlement of the German and Central

(Continued on next page)

A Depressing Reflection

"The signs are that a world war might be set off by the crisis building up over Berlin. Although plainly neither side wants a war, both must modify their positions if a trial of strength is to be avoided... It is a depressing reflection that other crises as dangerous as this one could be imposed on the Soviet Union and the United States at any time by a Chinese move in the Formosa Straits, a revolution in Iran, or any other such development in a border area. Unless these two Powers are able to settle their differences over Berlin by a positive act of cooperation, the chances of world war being avoided when less expected crises arise, as they will, cannot be considered good."

--The London Observer, July 2.

Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

Box 271, Nyack, New York

ALFRED HASSLER, Editor

WILLIAM ROBERT MILLER, Managing Editor

PAUL PEABODY, Editorial Assistant

FELLOWSHIP is published twice monthly by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Re-entered as second-class matter January 1, 1958 at the Post Office at Nyack, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879; additional entry at Lebanon, Pa.

The Berlin Crisis *(cont'd)*

European problem from which it arises. Instead of flatly rejecting such plans as those of Rapacki and Mansfield, the U.S. should take them as a basis for working out a better plan. There is nothing dishonorable in retreating from a road that leads to a precipice, in order to discover a road that leads to a destination.

Is it already too late for sanity to prevail?

Peck Branded "Communist" for Pacifist Convictions

Jim Peck, scarred veteran of the initial Freedom Ride, was recently branded "Communist" by Deep South officials for his part in anti-segregation and anti-nuclear campaigns. On May 25, Peck was singled out on the Senate floor by Senator Eastland of Mississippi, an avowed white supremacist, as a "Communist agitator and organizer of the most dangerous kind" who is "disloyal to his country." The *New York Post* editorialized: "Surely Eastland should have learned the distinction between a pacifist and a Communist...Peck's pacifist convictions are long a matter of record; he has suffered imprisonment for them on other occasions. Does Eastland really not grasp the distinction? Is he a fool or a faker?"

A similar attack on Peck came from Alabama Attorney General MacDonald Gallion. He accused Peck of being a "Communist associate," basing his allegation on the fact that Peck was imprisoned as a CO during World War II, was arrested during the 1947 Congress of Racial Equality campaign to end discrimination at Palisades Amusement Park, and was jailed in 1958 as a member of the *Golden Rule* crew.

In reply to these accusations, Peck said: "I have always been an outspoken critic of all forms of dictatorship, Fascist and Communist. Yet unfortunately, to many people who do not have the time or will to seek out the truth, I have been tagged a Communist, and through me, the Freedom Ride in which I participated."

Actually neither Gallion nor Eastland turned up a shred of evidence which could justify calling Peck a Communist.

CORE to Offer Training in Nonviolent Direct Action

An expanded program for training in nonviolent direct action methods "to meet the challenge of segregation in the South and North," was announced last month by Congress of Racial Equality Director James Farmer in New York City. CORE will sponsor two major workshops this summer. One will be an interracial Action Institute in northern Virginia, Aug. 13 - Sept. 3, to concentrate on the training of potential leaders in the techniques for ending discrimination in public places. The other is a Housing Workshop in the Boston, Mass., area, July 29 - Aug. 6, which is concentrating on ending housing discrimination in local northern and western communities. Information about the projects may be obtained from CORE, 38 Park Row, New York, N.Y.

Four interracial Freedom Riders left a Little Rock, Ark., city jail last month to continue their challenge of segregated bus terminals in the South, following a judge's offer of suspended sentences if they would leave the state. Earlier, the four, who were arrested for "breach of the peace" when they sought to test segregation at bus terminals in the city, had chosen to remain in jail rather than have their six-month prison terms and $500 fines suspended in return for a promise to go home.

NEWS from the peace front

A resolution condemning any resumption of nuclear testing by the U.S. as a "heavy blow to hopes for peace" was issued by the executive committee of the Methodist Board of Christian Social Concerns meeting in Washington, D.C., last month. Such a move would be a "tragic turn of events," the statement said, and would "damage world confidence in U.S. leadership." The message urged the U.S. now to make a creative response to the deadlocked nuclear test ban negotiations. It urged President Kennedy to request a special session of the UN General Assembly to deal with the issue, and to invite the UN to set up inspection and control stations on U.S. territory, which would operate under veto-free UN inspection systems.

Editorials in the *New York Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* in June also urged the U.S. not to resume weapons testing at this time.

* * *

The Royal Australian Navy recently renewed warnings to all shipping and civil aircraft to stay clear of the Monte Bello Islands off the northwest coast of Australia, because the Islands are still dangerously radioactive. The Monte Bello group was the scene of British nuclear tests in 1952.

* * *

Funds are urgently needed for the immediate relief of the thousands of people rendered homeless by severe floods in the State of Kerala, India. Torrential downpours have affected every part of the state and section of the dense population. Thousands of homesteads have been washed away. Over one hundred people have already lost their lives. Contributions should be sent to Acharya K. K. Chandy, former secretary of the Indian FOR, at this address: Christavashram, Manganam, Kottayam 4, Kerala, S. India.

* * *

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas last month suggested that the U.S. send surplus food to the starving people of Communist China. Such an act, Douglas said, would be "a great, a wonderful and stirring thing for America to do at this very tense, critical time in American history." Douglas, who made the suggestion on the National Broadcasting Company program "The Nation's Future," also criticized American foreign policy for its "preoccupation with military solutions of the problems of underdeveloped nations." "We have estimated that the Communist threat is primarily a military threat rather than a political threat," he said.

* * *

Col. Laurence E. Bunker, a member of the National Committee of the ultra right-wing John Birch Society, was personally chosen last month by Robert Welch, head of the society, to participate in a debate at the September FOR National Conference in Springfield, Mass. Bunker, Aide-de-Camp of General Douglas MacArthur, will vie with Paul Deats, Professor of Christian Ethics at Boston University School of Theology and FOR National Vice-Chairman, on the subject of "How We May Best Meet the Communist Challenge."

* * *

Clarence Funnye, a Negro civil engineer, signed a lease for an apartment in the Clinton Hill development in New York last month, following a Congress of Racial Equality campaign to end discrimination there. During the July 4th weekend CORE pickets marched around the development for 80 consecutive hours after the rental agent had refused to show Funnye an apartment. Several white CORE members, testing segregation, were later shown an apartment. When they and Mr. Funnye protested the discriminatory policy to the rental agent, the latter referred to the protests as "one of those Freedom things."

Picketing was suspended after a conciliation meeting between CORE and representatives of the development.

(Continued on next page)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please allow 4 weeks—supply both old and new address.

India's Defense Minister V. K. Krishna Menon declared in New Delhi last month that his country would refuse U.S. military aid even if it were offered. "We think systems of military alliances and aid," he said, "are likely to lead to an unearthly accumulation of arms."

He also pointed out that Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had rejected several such offers from the Eisenhower Administration.

* * *

Operation Freedom is still seeking to raise funds to help meet emergency needs of Negroes in Fayette and Haywood counties, Tenn., who were ordered off their land for voting in the last election. Operation Freedom, a special campaign to gather and disburse money for the Negroes, has helped them repay most of their crop loans this year, as well as meet other important needs. Money is still needed to help continue this aid, meet food shortages, pay mortgages and support families who face eviction because of their stand. Contributions should be sent to: Operation Freedom, c/o Rev. Maurice F McCrackin, 1111 Dayton St., Cincinnati 14, Ohio.

* * *

A message declaring that "war is irresponsible" in the atomic age was adopted in June by delegates attending the All-Christian Peace Assembly meeting in Prague, Czechoslovakia. "Since the atomic armament race is going on," the statement declared, "we beg all parliaments and governments to do everything that may lead to the abolition of war, and to dare much in this cause." The statement also urged the immediate cessation of all nuclear weapons tests by governments now possessing atomic arms and urged consideration of proposals for "the formation of atom-free zones and the creation of internationally guaranteed treaties of neutrality."

Among leading church leaders present at the meeting were Joseph L. Hromadka of Czechoslovakia, Jacob S. A. Stephens of Ghana, Bishop K. H. Ting of China and FOR member Martin Niemöller of Germany and others.

LIT NOTES

Organizing for Nonviolent Direct Action by Charles C. Walker, is a 31-page handbook that offers practical suggestions for persons or groups now adopting nonviolence in the struggle for peace and social justice. Price: 50¢ a copy. Order from: Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 5-9. Vigil appealing for permanent cessation of nuclear weapons tests and commemorating Hiroshima Day (Aug. 6) in the Washington, D.C., area. Write: Lawrence Scott, c/o Peace Action Center

Sept. 1-4. FOR National Conference at Springfield College, Springfield, Mass. Registrar: Mrs. Ralph Odom, 207 Middlesex, Springfield 9, Mass.

FELLOWSHIP
Box 271, Nyack, New York

SECOND CLASS
Postage Paid
at
Lebanon, Pa.

MEMBER ACP ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS